

Launching the More of God Series and the 60/60 Experiment

Thesis: We want to experience more of God, and we especially want our children, youth, and young adults to encounter God more deeply. Because of the word “more,” we are believing for increased encounters and experiences with the Lord.

Text: Ephesians 1:17-23; John 15:1-5; Ephesians 3:16-17

Today we launch our *More of God* series and the *60/60 Experiment*. To experience more of God, we want to start by becoming more aware of the Lord who is with us. So, we are launching the *60/60 Experiment* today, February 3. It will go through April 3.

1. The Lord has given us a word for this year: more.

a. **There is more of God for us to experience**—our Triune God is the Infinite, Eternal, and Holy One.

i. *I pray that the Father of glory, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, would impart to you the riches of the Spirit of wisdom and the Spirit of revelation to know him through your deepening intimacy with him. 18 I pray that the light of God will illuminate the eyes of your imagination, flooding you with light, until you experience the full revelation of the hope of his calling—that is, the wealth of God’s glorious inheritances that he finds in us, his holy ones! 19 I pray that you will continually experience the immeasurable greatness of God’s power made available to you through faith. Then your lives will be an advertisement of this immense power as it works through you! This is the mighty power 20 that was released when God raised Christ from the dead and exalted him to the place of highest honor and supreme authority in the heavenly realm! 21 And now he is exalted as first above every ruler, authority, government, and realm of power in existence! He is gloriously enthroned over every name that is ever praised, not only in this age, but in the age that is coming! 22 And he alone is the leader and source of everything needed in the church. God has put everything beneath the authority of Jesus Christ and has given him the highest rank above all others. 23 And now we, his church, are his body on the earth and that which fills him who is being filled by it! (Ephesians 1:17-23 Passion Translation).*

ii. We are praying that we will experience more of God through a deepening intimacy and relationship with the Lord.

- b. **And, God wants more of our lives**— all of us (heart, mind, soul, and strength; Mark 12:28-31).
 - i. *One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?" 29 "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. 31 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.'* 31 *The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'* There is no commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:28-31).
- 2. **Spiritual practices help remove the illusion that God is absent and help us become aware of what really is.**
 - a. **Here is reality.**
 - i. The reality is that we have *"one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all"* (Ephesians 4:6).
 1. God is transcendent.
 2. God is active and present.
 3. God is immanent.
 - ii. Reality is what Jesus said: *"I will never leave you nor forsake you"* (Hebrews 13:5).
 - b. **Here is some bad news.**
 - i. It is easy to believe the lies of the enemy or the voices of our own hearts telling us that God has left us, abandoned us, and forsaken us.
 - ii. It is easy to live unaware of the Lord.
 - iii. It is easy to live distracted lives, oblivious to the God who is with us and who is in us.
 - c. **Here is some good news.**
 - i. We can grow our capacity for living in the awareness of the Lord's presence with us.
 - ii. Jesus said, *"I am with you always"* (Matthew 28:20). **We can become present to this reality, of what really is.**
 - d. **The 60/60 Experiment is a way to abide, a way to remain in the Lord, or a way to practice the presence of the Lord (John 15:1-5).** (Marlene DeJesus prayed this on 1/24/19.)
 - i. *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear*

fruit unless you remain in me. 5 **"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing"** (John 15:1-5).

- ii. The discipline of awareness is a way to practice the presence of the Lord.
- iii. Margaret Petry recently prayed from Ephesians 1:17.
 1. "We keep asking that you will give us your spirit of wisdom and revelation."
 2. "We want to live more aware of you, and we want to come back to our first love. We say that you are the one thing that matters."
- e. **What if you and I lived more aware of the Lord's presence? What if we recognized that God is right here with us, right now? What if you knew throughout your day that Jesus was right beside you or in you?**
 - i. It would change us; we would live, speak, and think differently.
 - ii. It would empower us to say "no" to what is not of God and to say "yes" to what pleases the Lord.
 - iii. It would motivate us to get in on what God was doing in us, around us, and in others.
 - iv. It would cause us to fight and stand in victory over the enemy who attacks and assails us.
 - v. It would change our perspective regarding how we see ourselves, our circumstance, others, and this world.
 - vi. It would alter our feelings, replacing feelings of loneliness, isolation, and emptiness with feelings of nearness, companionship, and purpose.
3. **Let's review together the [handout for the 60/60 Experiment](#).**

Ministry Time

1. **Pray Ephesians 3:16-17 over us.**
 - a. *For this reason I kneel before the Father, 15 from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. 16 I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.... (Ephesians 3:14-17).*
 - b. Lord, we pray for power encounters with your Holy Spirit where God carves out more room in us for Jesus to dwell by faith
2. **Pray for encounters with the Lord, especially for our children, youth, and young adults.**
 - a. Intimacy

- b. Revelation
- c. Encounters
- d. Experiences
- e. Luke 11:13; Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:5, 8